

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND AGENCIES WHICH CONSTITUTE PARTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL RETAIN THEIR MERIT SYSTEM STATUS, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS ACT.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons who are as of July 31, 1970, classified employees of the Department of Public Improvements are hereby confirmed in the position and classification which they hold as of July 31, 1970, as classified employees of the Department of General Services until they retire, resign or are removed as provided by law, and all persons who are as of July 31, 1970, classified employees of any other board, commission, or agency abolished by this Act, shall retain their merit system status and shall be entitled to all of the rights conferred upon such employees by Article 41, Section 6, of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That all books, papers, files records, furniture, fixtures, and all other personal property owned by or in the custody, as of July 31, 1970, of any department, board, commission or agency abolished by this Act, shall be transferred to and be in the ownership or custody of the Department of General Services created in this Act.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That all appropriations and credits on the books, papers, and accounts of any department or other agency of this State, as of July 31, 1970, for and to the credit of any department, board, commission or agency abolished by this Act, and all liabilities and obligations as of July 31, 1970, of any department, board, commission or agency abolished by this Act, shall be transferred to and become the appropriations, credits, liabilities, and obligations of the Department of General Services herein created.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That all forms of the boards, commissions, offices or other agencies included within the Department of General Services existing on July 31, 1970, together with all rules, regulations, orders and other directives relating thereto, or promulgated thereby, and then in effect, shall continue in force pending exercise by the Secretary or the boards, commissions, offices or agencies of the powers, duties and responsibilities vested in him or them by this Act or by other provisions of law.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That all rules, regulations, forms, orders and directives promulgated by or in effect for any department, board, commission, office or other agency abolished by this Act, shall continue in force unless and until changed by the Secretary or the successor agency.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That if any part of this act, or any section or part of the section thereof, shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Act, or any section or part of a section hereof, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed the remaining parts of this act, or sections or parts of sections hereof, if such unconstitutionality or invalidity had been known; and to this end, all parts, sections, and parts of sections of this act are declared to be severable.